

REMARKS

The forgoing Amendment and remarks which follow are responsive to the Final Office Action mailed April 4, 2005 in relation to the above-identified patent application. In that Office Action, the Examiner indicated that Claims 31-36, 38 and 40 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) as being anticipated by the Huang et al. reference. Additionally, the Examiner rejected Claims 31, 38 and 39 under Section 102(e) as being anticipated by the Sharma et al. reference, and rejected Claims 49-50 under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by the Berg et al. reference.

Importantly, the Examiner indicated that Claims 41-43 and 46 were allowed, and that Claims 37 and 47 were objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. Applicant notes that the Office Action Summary page of the subject Office Action also includes an indication that Claims 44 and 45 are objected to, though no mention is made of such claims in the body of the Office Action. Since Claims 44 and 45 are each dependent upon allowed Claim 41, Applicant assumes it was the Examiner's intention to indicate that these claims were allowed as well, as opposed to being objected to due to the lack of any mention in the Office Action regarding any deficiencies in such claims.

By this Amendment, Applicant has cancelled Claims 36, 37 and 48-50. Additionally, Applicant has amended independent Claim 31 to include the features originally set forth in cancelled Claim 37 which, as indicated above, was merely objected to by the Examiner. Thus, Applicant respectfully submits that amended independent Claim 31 is now in condition for allowance, as are Claims 32-35 and 38-40 as being dependent upon an allowable base claim. Additionally, Applicant has amended objected to Claim 47 to change its dependency to allowed Claim 41.

On the basis of the foregoing, Applicant respectfully submits that the stated grounds of rejection have been overcome, and that Claims 31-35 and 38-47 are now in condition for allowance. Additionally, Applicant respectfully submits that the present Amendment does not raise any new issues which would require further searching on the part of the Examiner, and therefore respectfully requests that the same be considered and entered by the Examiner. An early Notice of Allowance is therefore respectfully requested.

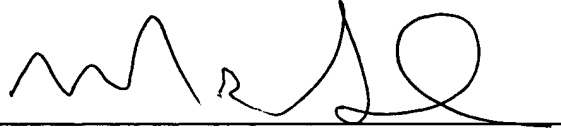
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If any additional fee is required, please charge Deposit Account Number 19-4330.

Respectfully submitted,

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